

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A network adapter system, comprising:
 - 2 (a) a processor positioned on a network adapter coupled between a computer and a
3 network;
 - 4 (b) wherein the processor is adapted for scanning network traffic transmitted
5 between the computer and the network.
- 1 2. The network adapter system as recited in claim 1, wherein the processor is
2 capable of being user-configured.
- 1 3. The network adapter system as recited in claim 2, wherein the processor is
2 capable of being user-configured locally.
- 1 4. The network adapter system as recited in claim 2, wherein the processor is
2 capable of being user-configured remotely via a network connection with the
3 network adapter.
- 1 5. The network adapter system as recited in claim 2, wherein the processor is
2 capable of being user-configured only after the verification of a password.
- 1 6. The network adapter system as recited in claim 2, wherein the manner in which
2 the scanning is performed is capable of being user-configured.

- 1 7. The network adapter system as recited in claim 2, wherein the settings of the
2 network adapter are capable of being user-configured.
- 1 8. The network adapter system as recited in claim 1, wherein the processor is
2 capable of determining whether received packets are of interest.
- 1 9. The network adapter system as recited in claim 8, wherein the received packets
2 are of interest based on an associated protocol.
- 1 10. The network adapter system as recited in claim 8, wherein the processor is
2 capable of passing received packets that are not of interest to the computer.
- 1 11. The network adapter system as recited in claim 10, wherein the processor is
2 capable of scanning received packets that are of interest.
- 1 12. The network adapter system as recited in claim 11, wherein the processor is
2 capable of denying received packets that fail the scan.
- 1 13. The network adapter system as recited in claim 1, wherein the scan is performed
2 based on user settings.
- 1 14. A method for scanning network traffic on a network adapter, comprising:
2 (a) receiving packets at a network adapter including a processor positioned thereon;
3 (b) scanning the packets utilizing the processor; and
4 (c) conditionally taking security measures if the packets fail the scan.
- 1 15. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the processor is capable of being
2 user-configured.

- 1 16. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the processor is capable of being
2 user-configured locally.
- 1 17. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the processor is capable of being
2 user-configured remotely via a network connection with the network adapter.
- 1 18. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the processor is capable of being
2 user-configured only after the verification of a password.
- 1 19. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the manner in which the scanning is
2 performed is capable of being user-configured.
- 1 20. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the settings of the network adapter
2 are capable of being user-configured.
- 1 21. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the processor is capable of
2 determining whether received packets are of interest.
- 1 22. The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the received packets are of interest
2 based on an associated protocol.
- 1 23. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the processor is capable of passing
2 received packets that are not of interest to the computer.
- 1 24. The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the processor is capable of scanning
2 received packets that are of interest.

- 1 25. The method as recited in claim 24, wherein the processor is capable of denying
2 received packets that fail the scan.
- 1 26. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the scan is performed based on user
2 settings.
- 1 27. A system for scanning network traffic on a network adapter, comprising:
2 (a) network adapter means for receiving packets;
3 (b) processor means positioned on the network adapter means for scanning the
4 packets; and
5 (c) means for conditionally taking security measures if the packets fail the scan.
- 1 28. A system for scanning network traffic on a network adapter, comprising:
2 (a) network adapter means for receiving packets;
3 (b) logic positioned on the network adapter means for scanning the packets; and
4 (c) logic for conditionally taking security measures if the packets fail the scan.
- 1 29. A network adapter system, comprising:
2 (a) a processor positioned on a network adapter coupled between a computer and a
3 network, the processor including a packet assembly module, random access
4 memory (RAM), and a scanner module;
5 (b) a user interface driver for identifying network traffic of interest transmitted
6 between the computer and the network;
7 (c) wherein the processor is adapted for discerning and scanning network traffic of
8 interest transmitted between the computer and the network.